



FOREWORD

By Ogonna Brown, Deborah J. Feutsch, and Rosa Solis-Rainey

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elcome to the 2021 edition of *Nevada Gaming Lawyer* magazine. Historic, Resilient, and Hope are some of the first words that come to mind when summing up the past 18 months. The Nevada Gaming Commission and the Nevada Gaming Control Board are tasked with protecting "the public health, safety, morals, good order general welfare of the inhabitants of the State, to foster the stability and success of gaming . . ." NRS § 463.0129(d). As Nevada joined the world in the fight against the global pandemic caused by Covid-19, Nevada's gaming regulators were called upon to help effectuate Governor Sisolak's sudden mandate for the temporary closure of *all* gaming establishments in the state and to develop a strategy for the reopening of our state's principal industry.

Requiring all non-essential businesses, including Nevada's largest and most economically significant industry, to turn off the lights on March 18, 2020, could not have been an easy decision, but it was the right one. As they have in other times of crisis, Nevadans responded to this unprecedented and uncertain time in history with strength and resiliency. Despite dealing with the devastating effects of having their doors closed for an unspecified timeframe, Nevada gaming licensees quickly mobilized and spearheaded efforts to collect and distribute PPE to our health heroes and most vulnerable citizens, to support efforts to transition our children to online education, and to fill food pantries that were critical to aid those in need. Without being required to do so, gaming companies searched for or developed innovative solutions and committed millions during the closure to make properties safer for their employees and guests. Many gaming companies developed employee assistance programs, often by reducing or foregoing executive compensation. During these uncertain months, many casinos lit up their world-famous marquees to spread hope and remind the world that casinos would soon reopen and shine brighter than ever.

Although "video" meetings replaced in-person meetings and telecommuting became the norm, the hard-working staff and members of the Nevada Gaming Control Board continued all facets of their work and pivoted to address the pressing needs of the community. This allowed the Nevada Gaming Commission to continue its work: disciplinary matters were heard, new applicants were licensed, new games were approved, and at least three major properties opened in the midst of the pandemic. Hope for the day the sights and sounds of gaming would once again fill our State kept the industry leaders and regulators moving forward. Given the importance of gaming to the health and welfare of our State, failure was never an option.



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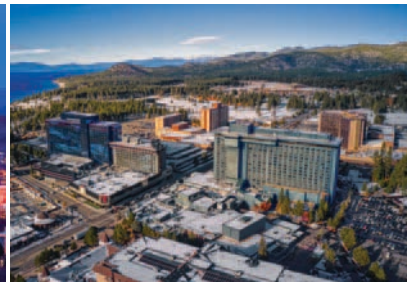
The gaming industry is slowly healing and happily welcoming visitors from around the globe. The gaming industry doubled down and gambled that pent-up demand would bring an influx of tourists ready to escape to Las Vegas, and after the reopening, Las Vegas experienced record-breaking numbers over the summer months of 2021. Gaming companies are now supporting Nevada's recovery by not only providing much-needed jobs and tax revenue, but also by supporting communities through onsite vaccination clinics as well as incentives for citizens to take advantage of the many vaccination opportunities throughout the state. Covid-19 was a formidable foe, and we are not out of the woods, but it did not win. Nevada's recovery gets brighter each day and with the teamwork and comradery that is the fabric of the industry, Nevada will retain its house advantage.

A milestone of a different sort was also reached during these turbulent times. Two years after Nevada made history by becoming the first state in the union with a female-majority legislature, and one year after the Nevada Supreme Court became one of 10 in the nation with a female majority on the state's highest court, another glass ceiling was broken. Governor Sisolak's appointment of Ogonna Brown in July 2020 gave the Nevada Gaming Commission the first female majority in the history of our state. We hope such firsts will become the norm, and that in the coming years, gender will become irrelevant. We are proud to serve this dynamic industry who has shown such tremendous tenacity, grit and leadership during these unpredictable times. Thank you Nevada gaming companies for giving us all hope during these precarious times, and for providing so many Nevadans with the tools for a better tomorrow.



We also extend our thanks to Jeff Rodefer and the Gaming Law Section for inviting us to write this *Foreword*, and for their tireless efforts to address topics of interest to gaming practitioners, regulators, and members of academia not only through this annual magazine but also through their books and quarterly newsletters. *The Nevada Gaming Law Index*

and the *Nevada Gaming Law Practice and Procedure Manual* are invaluable resources for gaming practitioners. Finally, we thank the Neon Museum Las Vegas for allowing us to showcase their historical location for the magazine cover this year (www.neonmuseum.org). If you have not yet visited, it is worth checking out.

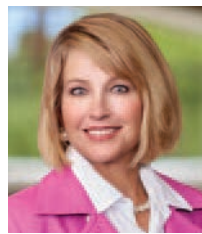


Ogonna Brown was appointed to the Nevada Gaming Commission by Governor Steve Sisolak in July 2020. Commissioner Brown brings close to 20

years of legal experience to her role, primarily in the areas of complex business litigation and bankruptcy focusing on creditors' rights. Recognized by her clients as a practical, business-minded lawyer, she is collaborative and solution-oriented.

As a partner at Lewis Roca Rothgerber Christie, she is passionate about mentoring up-and-coming lawyers and in taking on pro bono cases, staying highly active with the William S. Boyd School of Law's mentoring programs and with Legal Aid of Southern Nevada. Commissioner Brown is also active in the community, serving on the board of Shade Tree, Goodwill of Southern Nevada in Las Vegas and Big Brothers Big Sisters of Southern Nevada. She is a former office holder and board member of Southern Nevada Association of Bankruptcy Attorneys and a barrister with the Howard D. McKibben Inn of Court. Commissioner Brown was inducted into the American College of Bankruptcy as Fellow in 2018.

She was a Judicial Law Clerk to the Honorable Johnnie B. Rawlinson, United States Court of Appeals, Ninth Circuit, 2001-2002. Commissioner Brown was a Lawyer Representative to the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals from 2014 through 2016. During this time, she served as Lawyer Representative Co-Chair of the Nevada Delegation and member of the Lawyer Representative Coordinating Committee, District Conference Planning Committee and the Attorney Admission Fund Advisory Group Committee. While serving as a Lawyer Representative, Commissioner Brown assisted the Bankruptcy Judges with presentations for the Bankruptcy Breakout Sessions at the Judicial District Conferences and attended and participated with the program for the Ninth Circuit Judicial Conferences.



Deborah J. Fuetsch was appointed to the Nevada Gaming Commission by Governor Brian Sandoval in 2016. After a prestigious five-year tenure, she retired

on June 1, 2021. A fourth generation Nevadan, she was born and raised in Reno, staying true to her roots making northern Nevada her home. Former Commissioner Fuetsch retired in 2017 from Wells Fargo Bank while serving as Senior Vice President of the Nevada Middle Market Banking Group. During her banking tenure, she managed commercial finance relationships for a diverse group of public and private entities and industries including gaming, gaming manufacturing, commercial construction and infrastructure, manufacturing, distribution and mining. Through her 25 years in the financial sector, she gained a deep understanding of regulatory matters that overlap both the banking and gaming industries.

Former Commissioner Fuetsch is a graduate of the University of Nevada, Reno, earning her Bachelor degree in Business Administration. At Nevada, she was a member of the Women's Tennis Team and Kappa Alpha Theta fraternity. She is dedicated to her community, volunteering her time to numerous non-profit organizations over the past three decades including The Children's Cabinet, Nevada Statewide Grants Management Unit for Family Resource Centers, Nevada Women's Fund, Athletic Association of the University of Nevada, Reno and the College of Business Administration Alumni Association of the University of Nevada, Reno amongst several others.



Rosa Solis-Rainey was appointed to the Nevada Gaming Commission by Governor Sisolak in April, 2019. In addition to serving as a Commissioner, she is

the managing partner of Morris Law Group, a boutique law firm focused on commercial litigation and appellate work. Prior to entering private practice, she clerked for Chief Judge Philip M. Pro, United States District Court, and Justice Myron Leavitt (deceased), Nevada Supreme Court. Commissioner Solis-Rainey worked her way through college working front and back of the house jobs for gaming companies both on and off the Strip, and began her professional career with Boyd Gaming Corporation, where she served as Director of Internal Audit and Director of Regulatory Compliance.

Commissioner Solis-Rainey has called Nevada home since 1973 and is a proud supporter of the William S. Boyd Law School, UNLV, Zeta Tau Alpha, Legal Aid of Southern Nevada and Nevada Legal Services. She earned graduate and undergraduate degrees in business from the University of Nevada, Las Vegas and was a member of the Charter Class of the William S. Boyd School of Law, graduating *magna cum laude*.